GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Commercial Tax Department - Surprise check conducted on the Boarder Check Post of Commercial Taxes, Pondugula, Dachepalli Mandal, Guntur District on 03.06.2016 - Departmental action initiated against Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO, Piduguralla Circle and now AC (ST), O/o.JC (ST), Guntur Division-I and others - Imposed punishment of one annual grade increment without cumulative effect against Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO and now AC (ST) - Honorable High Court set aside the orders issued in G.O.Rt.No.689, Revenue (Vig-VI) Department, dt.27.09.2024 and remand back disciplinary case to the disciplinary authority - Examined Findings of the Inquiry Authority - Further action dropped against Smt. Gorangla Manjula Rani, former CTO, Piduguralla, now Asst.Commr.(ST), O/o.Jt. Commr.(ST), Guntur Division-1 - Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 1130 Dated: 24-09-2025

Read the following:-

1. From the DG, ACB, Lr.Rc.No.79/DES-VGT/2016-S.17, dt.08.03.2017.
2. G.O.Ms.No.69, Revenue (Vig.II) Dept., dt.02.03.2020.
3. G.O.Rt.Nos.302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, **310** and 311, Revenue (Vig.ll) Dept., dt.02.03.2020.
4. G.O.Rt.No.808, Revenue (Vig.ll) Dept., dt.09.10.2020.
5. G.O.Rt No.942, Revenue (Vig.ll) Dept., dt.11.12.2020.
6. From the CCST, Lr.Ref.No.VI/241/2016, dt.09.09.2022.
7. Govt.Memo.No.REV-17023/39/2016-VIG.II-REV, dt.19.03.2023.
8. From the CCST, Lr.Ref.No.V1/241/2016, dt.06.05.2023 and 06.07.2023.
9. Written Representations of the Charged Officers.
10. G.O.Rt.No.689, Revenue (Vig-VI) Dept., dt.27.09.2024.
11. Common Orders of Honorable High Court of A.P., in W.P.No.10887/2025 & W.P.No.19036 of 2025 filed by Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO, Piduguralla Circle and now AC (ST), O/o.JC (ST), Guntur Division-I.
12. G.O.Rt.No.1129, Revenue (Vigilance-VI) Dept., dated 24.09.2025.

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ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 1st read above, the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau has informed that a surprise check was conducted at the Border Check Post of the Commercial Tax Department at Pondugula, Dachepalli Mandal, Guntur district on 03.06.2016 and noticed that certain irregularities were committed by the officers and staff working at check post. He has recommended initiating departmental action against the following ten (10) Suspected Officers (SOs) to impose major penalty for violation of A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964:-

1. Sri Pasala Smithner, ACTO (SO.1)
2. Sri Lebakula Srinivasulu, Senior Assistant (SO.2)
3. Sri Penudi Raghavulu, Senior Assistant (SO.3)
4. Sri Thota Venkateswarlu, Junior Assistant (SO.4)
5. Sri Dasari Venkata Suresh Kumar, Junior Assistant (SO.5)
6. Sri Palisetty Veereswara Rao, Junior Assistant (SO.6)
7. Sri Chodavarapu Venkateswarlu, Office Subordinate (SO.7)
8. Sri Ande Santharam, Administrative Officer (SO.8)
9. Smt.Gorantla Manjula Rani, CTO, Piduguralla (SO.9)
10. Sri Meda Rambabu, DC (CT), Guntur-II Division (SO.10) (Retired from service)

2. Whereas, in the reference 2nd read above, Government initiated common disciplinary proceedings against SOs 1 to 9 of Commercial personnel under Rule 24 of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 for misconduct and violation of the

A.P.Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964. In the reference 3rd read above, articles of charge were framed against each of them under Rule 20 of the APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991. In respect of SO.10, namely Sri M.Rambabu, Dy.Commr.(CT), Guntur-II Division (Retd.), Govt., initiated disciplinary action vide G.O.Ms.No.70, Revenue (Vig.II) Dept., dt.02.03.2020, under Rule 9 of the A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

3. Whereas, all the Charged Officers submitted their defense statements, and in the reference 5th read above, Sri D.Ramesh, Addl. CCST, O/o.CCT was appointed as the Inquiry Officer to inquire into the charges framed against the Charged Officers. In the reference 6th read above, the Chief Commissioner of State Tax has furnished the Inquiry Report to the Govt., for taking further action. After examining the Inquiry Report, in the reference 7th read above, the inquiry report along with the disagreement factors, have been communicated to all the Charged Officers under Rule 21(2) of the A.P.Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 with a direction to submit their representations, if any, on the disagreement factors and findings of the Inquiry Authority, within (15) days from the date of receipt. All the Charged Officers submitted their explanations and requested to drop further action against them in this matter.

4. The Government, after a detailed examination of the Inquiry Report and the written representations submitted by the Charged Officers, in the reference 10th read above, Government imposed a penalty of withholding of one annual grade increment without cumulative effect against Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO, Piduguralla Circle and now AC (ST), O/o.JC (ST) Guntur-1 Division for the irregularities noticed against her during the surprise check conducted by the ACB over the Border Check Post, Pondugula, Dachepalli Mandal, Guntur District on 03.06.2016 for violation of Rule 3 of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Aggrieved by the above orders, Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO, Piduguralla Circle and now AC (ST), O/o.JC (ST), Guntur Division-I filed W.P.No.10887/2025 before the Honorable High Court of A.P. She has further filed another W.P.No.19036/2025 to declare the action of the respondents in seeking to supersede the petitioner in promotion to the post of Dy.Commissioner (ST) for being illegal, arbitrary and consequently direct the respondents to promote her as Deputy Commissioner (ST) in accordance with her seniority. In the reference 11th read above, the Honorable High Court in its Common order dt.05.08.2025 in W.P.No.10887/2025 & W.P.No.19036 of 2025 disposed of the Writ Petitions with the following directions:-

(i) The impugned order issued by Respondent No.1 vide G.O.Rt.No.689, dated 27.09.2024 is set-aside;
(ii) The case is remitted to the disciplinary authority for taking further action from the stage of enquiry report;
(iii) Pending further action, the Petitioner shall be considered for promotion to the post of Deputy Commissioner (ST) without reference to the disciplinary action referred above;

5. Accordingly, in the reference 12th read above, Govt., issued orders cancelling the orders issued in G.O.Rt.No.689, Revenue (Vigilance-VI) Department, dated 27.09.2024 in respect of Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO, Piduguralla Circle and now AC (ST) O/o.JC (ST), Guntur Division-I only.

6. In compliance to the orders of Honorable High Court, Government re-examined the findings of the Inquiry Officer in respect of the Smt.G.Manjula Rani, AC (ST) as per the findings the charges framed against her is not proved. Further, and the disagreement factor communicated by the disciplinary authority is on the premise that recovery of amounts from the office stood proved and the onus of disproving the same is on the charged officers even though it is not established by the prosecution that the bribe amounts/mamools are collected by charged officers is not at all relevant for this petitioner considering the nature of charge. The tentative reasons and consequential punishment against this petitioner reflects abject approach by the Respondent authority as regards the petitioner as observed by the Honourable High Court.

7. Accordingly, Government, after careful examination of the Inquiry Report and written representation of Smt.G.Manjula Rani, former CTO, now AC (ST) and in

view of the directions of Hon'ble High Court of A.P., hereby drop further action against Smt.Gorantla Manjula Rani, former Commercial Tax Officer now Assistant Commissioner (State Tax), O/o.Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Guntur-1 Division with warning to be careful in future.

8. The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PEEYUSH KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The individual (through the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur district)
The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, A.P., Kunchanapalli, Guntur district

Copy to:-
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, A.P., Vijayawada, for favour of information
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, A.P.Vigilance Commission, for favour of information
SF/SCs (Computer No.98458)

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER